No. 14

MINUTES

OF THE

BAPTIST ADVISARY COUNCIL,

HELD AT

UNION MEETING HOUSE,

LENOIR COUNTY, N. C.

ON THE

11th, 12th and 13th days of October, 1839.

Raleigh:

Thomas Loring, Printer,

OFFICE OF "THE NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD."

1840.

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BAPTIST ADVISARY COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, October 11th.

1. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder Parrot Mewbern, from the 10th chapter of John and 10th verse, viz: "*The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill and destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*"

2. The Council then assembled for business; and was opened with prayer by Elder Lewis Whitfield, who was chosen Moderator; Allen Whitfield, Clerk; and Elder George W. Wallace, Assistant Clerk.

3. Brethren in the Ministry were invited to sit with us.

4. Brethren William H. Whitfield and Benajah Herring were appointed a Committee of Finance, to examine the state of the Treasury, and report on to-morrow.

5. Letters from six Churches were read, their Delegates names' enrolled, and their present number recorded—as in the following table:

CHURCHES,	COUNTIES,	NAMES OF DELEGATES	BAPTIZED,	REC. BY LETTER,	RESTORED,	DIS. BY LETTER,	EXCLUDED,	DEAD,	MEMBERS,	CONTRIBUTIONS,
Bear Creek,	Lenoir,	Elder Alex. Moseley, Elder Parrot Mewbern,	00	00	00	00	00	1	54	$4 00
Nahunty,	Wayne,	Elder John Smith, William Taylor,	1		1				34	2 00
Pleasant Plains,	"	Abner Grady, William Whitfield,							13	1 50
Friendship,	"	Benajah Herring, Jacob Herring,		1			1	1	22	1 50
Prospect,	Duplin,	Eld. Geo. W. Wallace, Whitfield Grady,	3			3			20	3 00
Union,	Lenoir,	Windal Davis, William H. Whitfield,	5						11	3 00
Rose of Sharon,	"	Elder Lewis Whitfield, Joseph Tilman, Wilson Tilman,	1						12	2 00
			10	1	1	3	1	2	166	$17 00

6. Petitionary letters were called for. One from the Church at Rose of Sharon, in Lenoir county, was handed in by their delegates, and read; and after examination, that Church was received by the Moderator, giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship, and enrolled on the list.

7. The Circular Letter was called for, and referred to a committee, consisting of Eld. Parrot Mewbern and Bro. William H. Whitfield, for examination, to report on to-morrow.

8. Elders Swinson and Smith were appointed a committee to transcribe the Constitution, and report on to-morrow.

9. Elders Moseley and Wallace and Bro. Joseph Tilman were appointed a committee to inquire and find out the cause of such great coldness and barrenness in some of the Churches, and report on to-morrow.

10. Adjourned till Saturday, 10 o'clock A. M. Prayer by Elder Henry Swinson.

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Saturday, October 12th.

11. The Council was opened with prayer by Elder John Smith.

12. The Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum, were read.

13. The Committee to examine the Circular Letter reported favorably; and the letter was read and approved.

14. Elder Lewis Whitfield was appointed to write a Circular Letter for the next year's Minutes, and choose his subject.

15. The Committee to transcribe the Constitution handed in a fair copy of the original, which was received.

16. The Committee to inquire and find out the cause of such great coldness in some of the Churches, reported as follows:

We the undersigned, Committee, to whom was referred the letters handed in from the different Churches, by the hands of their delegates, which compose this Advisary Council, have taken upon them the task. Upon examining the letters, we find, in some, that Zion is in a languishing state. Although they have regular preaching they complain of great coldness and indifference among themselves, and carelessness with sinners. This is a malady that has grown out of some cause; we, therefore, as your Council do recommend you to immediately search it out. It may possibly grow out of a gross neglect of known duties. We will take the liberty to propose some questions to you. Do you attend your stated meetings, individually, as far as in your power lieth? Are you careful to keep your lamps trimmed and burning—that the world, seeing your holy walk, may take knowledge you have been with Jesus? Do you, as Churches, notice disorderly conduct among your members, and immediately take the prescribed rule of the gospel for their healing? If you do not, dear brethren, there remaineth two transgressions with you—they who have erred in this way, and you, as a Church, in not dealing with them. We, therefore, as your Council, do advise you immediately to arise and depart, for this is not your rest. Search out the cause. For the golden lodge, the silvery and Babylonish garment in

Achars tent was the cause of Israel's defeat, by the army of Ai. It is evident you are fallen; you have lost your first love. Repent immediately, and do the first works, lest the lion of the tribe of Judah come and fight against you with the sword of his mouth. Some Churches, we find, by their letters, are prospering in the Lord; they seem to be careful to keep the house clean, and their garments unspotted, rejoicing in hope. We do commend you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, go on; your God will keep you in all places whither thou goest, and will not have thee until he hath done that he hath spoken to thee of. Consider what we say, and may the Lord give you an understanding of all things.

GEORGE W. WALLACE,
ALEXANDER MOSELY,
JOHN TILMAN.

17. Agreed that our next Council shall be held at Friendship M. H., Wayne county, to commence Friday before the second Lord's Day in October, 1840; and that Elder George W. Wallace is appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, and in case of his failure Elder John Smith. Worship to begin at 11 o'clock, A. M.

18. Elders Lewis Whitfield, Hiram Stallings and Henry Swinson, were appointed to preach on Sunday. Worship to begin at 10½ o'clock, A. M.

19. Your Committee of Finance beg leave to report that they find now

In the Treasury	$7
Received by contributions, this year,	17
Balance remaining in the Treasury,	$24

WILLIAM H. WHITFIELD,
BENAJAH HERRING.

20. Agreed that the thanks of this Council be given to the ladies and gentlemen of this vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality towards them during their session.

21. Brethren A. Whitfield and W. H. Whitfield were appointed to transcribe and prepare the Minutes, and have two hundred and fifty copies printed, and distribute them.

22. The list of delegates was called over.

23. The Minutes were read, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

24. Adjourned with prayer, to the time and place appointed.

LEWIS WHITFIELD, Moderator.

ALLEN WHITFIELD, Clerk.

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SUNDAY, October 13th.

Elder Hiram Stallings preached from the 3rd chapter of John and 5th verse, viz: "*Jesus answered—Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*" Elder Lewis Whitfield followed, and preached from the 4th chapter of Micah and the first four verses, viz: "*But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the moun-*

tain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say, come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths, for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it." Elder Henry Swinson followed on, and preached from the 3rd chapter of Matthew and latter part of the 7th verse, viz: "*O, generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come.*"

The word was delivered in candor; with that zeal and faithfulness that becometh the servants of God. Solemn attention was given by the congregation. We pray Almighty God to attend the word with an unction from on high, to the salvation of sinners, and comfort of his people.

Elder Wallace closed the business of the day, with a warm and solemn exhortation.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Beloved Brethren:

With pleasure we embrace another opportunity of addressing you, by way of a circular. We cannot better employ our time than in making it speak to us our true condition. The subject we shall notice is LOVE.

Love enters so much into the nature of God, that it is said God is love—1 John, iv. 8. A heathen sage speaks of Love as the fairest and most beautiful among the immortal Gods. The trinity mutually love one another; the Father loves the Son and Spirit, the Son loves the Father and Spirit, and the Spirit loves the Father and Son; hence there has always been an eternal harmony and concordance between them, manifesting itself in the works of creation and redemption. All that God has made are objects of his love. All the works of creation were good, very good. He rejoices in his works—Psal. civ. 31.

The love of the Father has appeared in providing for the eternal welfare of man, and in forming the scheme of their peace and reconciliation in Christ, from eternity. The love of the Son appears in carrying into effect that glorious plan of his Father, by shedding his blood for the remission of sins. The love of the Spirit (Rom. xv. 30) appears in his coming into our hearts, and making us mete for his presence. The love of God is eternal, and unchangeable; it does neither increase or decrease. It is the bond of union between God and Christ and his People, and nothing can separate from it—Rom. viii ch. 35 ver.

Love, then, in a rational creature, is something inclining them to show kindness to, or desiring fellowship with, or close possession of, things, on account of some excellency apprehended in them. As a grace, it is a principle wrought in our hearts or souls by the spirit of God, removing the turpitude, and forming an entire change in the heart of poor fallen man, and elevates his affections above the pleasures of time and sense, and places them on those spiritual enjoyments prepared for the children of God. The creature then enters upon the great work of keeping his commandments, not by constraint or fear, but of choice, for love casteth out fear, and fulfils the law containing our duty to God and man.

"If ye love me ye will keep my sayings"; love worketh no ill to his neighbor—Rom. xiii. 10. Love to God and man, is what we understand by the word charity. It matters not how wise or faithful we may be, or how earnestly we may contend for the faith, how often we may feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or how much we may sacrifice of worldly profit or honor; if we have not love to God and man, we are unprepared for God. But if we have charity, we suffer long and are kind; we envy not, we are not puffed up, do not behave ourselves unseemly, seek not our own, are not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in strife and contention, but rejoiceth in the truth, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things, (1 Cor. xiii. ch.) keep the unity of the

spirit in the bonds of peace, esteem others better than ourselves, do unto all men as we would that they should do unto us, be humble, meek and lowly, not of any sect or party; but embrace and honor whatever excellencies there are in others, and cultivate a cordial friendship with all that walk in holiness of life; honor them with esteem, and allow them the right hand of fellowship.

The new man, under the influence of love, is free from the storm of passions, the poisonous cup of the drunkard, the murderous pistol of the duellist, the dagger of the jealous, the loathsome diseases of the harlot, and the wasting inclination of the gambler, and are ever at war with ambition, vanity, earthly fame, pride, avarice, mad superstition, smooth hypocrisy, intolerant bigotry, hot controversy, and (sweet lipped) hollow hearted flattery. They will not be led about by sectarian prejudices, or childish and frivolous distinctions; but, on the other hand, will practice knowledge, virtue, toleration, and charity for our fellow beings. It makes us cultivate holy affections for our fellow beings; makes us tender parents, faithful husbands, kind and benevolent masters, virtuous and patriotic citizens, faithful in our friendships, honest in our dealings and communications with mankind, moderate in our desires, unostentatious in our charities, and tolerant in our opinions.

To all such men as are under the influence of love divine, disease and infirmities in this life are nothing; they are above their influence. Nothing can ruffle the deep settled serenity of their souls; their death beds are the death beds of the righteous, and their last end is like his.

Brethren, the limits of a circular will not allow us to expatiate and enlarge on a subject upon which volumes might and have been written. We have offered you a few hints upon the origin and effects of love. Let us now exhort you to keep yourselves in the love of God, (Jude xxi. 5.) and examine yourselves daily to see whether you be under its influence, or under the influence of the base, sordid, and selfish spirit of this world.

For God's sake, if it be possible, let us not provoke one another to wrath; let us not kindle in each other this fire of Hell, much less blow it up to a flame; if we could discern truth thereby, would it not be loss rather than gain? for how far is love even with many wrong opinions to be preferred before truth without love. We may die without the knowledge of many truths, and yet be carried to Abraham's bosom. But if we die without love, what will knowledge avail?—Just as much as it will the Devil and his angels. May the God of love forbid we should make the trial. O! may he prepare us for the knowledge of all truth by filling our hearts with all his love. Farewell.